

Higher Education Committee

HB 1394

Brief Description: Changing the timeline for the state comprehensive plan for workforce training and education.

Sponsors: Representatives White, Kenney, Wallace, Orwall, Carlyle, Anderson, Sells, Chase and Sullivan; by request of Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board to prepare a comprehensive plan for workforce training and education for a 10-year period and submit updates to the plan every four years.

Hearing Date: 1/27/09

Staff: Andi Smith (786-7304)

Background:

The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) is a Governor-appointed body representing a partnership of 12 members from business, labor, and government. The Workforce Board advises the Governor on workforce development policy, ensures that the state's workforce preparation services and programs work together, and evaluates performance. The Board also advocates for the non-baccalaureate training and education needs of the workers who account for about 75 percent of Washington state's workforce.

The Workforce Board's comprehensive plan is meant to serve as the roadmap for the workforce development system. The Legislature is required, following public hearings, to approve or make changes to the plan updates by way of a concurrent resolution. Once so approved, the plan becomes the state's workforce training policy unless legislation is enacted to alter the policies set forth in the plan. Every year, by December 1, the Workforce Board reports to the appropriate legislative policy committees on progress in implementing the comprehensive plan.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

In 2008, the Workforce Board approved the comprehensive plan, High Skills, High Wages 2008. The plan details goals and strategies for the next 10 years, though the strategic opportunities outlined are intended as guidance for focusing the workforce agenda during the next two to four years. The timelines for the plan mirror current statutory planning and reporting requirements of the state's Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education, submitted by the Higher Education Coordinating Board and adopted by the Legislature in 2008.

Summary of Bill:

The time period covered by the Workforce Board's comprehensive plan is lengthened from two years to 10 years. The period between plan updates is also lengthened from annually to every four years.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.